

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0425
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, GR, EAGR
SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JUNE 21, 1977:
MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES

REF: BRUSSELS 6021

1. DURING DISCUSSION OF MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES AT THE
JUNE 21 FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, FRENCH SECRETARY OF
STATE PIERRE CHRISTIAN TATtinger ANNOUNCED THAT HIS GOVERN-
MENT WAS LIFTING ITS RESERVE ON PROCEEDING WITH AGRICULTUR-
AL SECTOR TALKS IN THE GREEK ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS
(REFTEL). THE COUNCIL SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED THE TEXT OF
THE EC'S OPENING COMMENTS ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, TO
BE PRESENTED AT THE JULY 19 SESSION OF THE ACCESSION
NEGOTIATIONS.

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2. PRIOR TO ANNOUNCING THIS MOVE, TATtinger DELIVERED A
LENGTHY STATEMENT (A COPY OF WHICH WAS OBTAINED BY MISSION
OFFICER) OUTLINING THE FRENCH POSITION. HE NOTED THAT
MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE
FRENCH ECONOMY, IN TERMS BOTH OF FOREIGN TRADE AND OF
DIRECT AND INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT (17 PER CENT IN SOUTHERN

FRANCE); FRENCH MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE, HOWEVER, FACES GROWING DIFFICULTIES POINTING TOWARD A SERIOUS AND PERMANENT CRISIS IN THAT REGION. TATTINGER ASSERTED THAT EC MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS DO NOT BENEFIT FROM THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY TO THE SAME EXTENT AS NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS, AND THEIR RELATIVE INCOME IS LOWER. THESE DIFFICULTIES HAVE BEEN INCREASED IN RECENT YEARS BY OPENING OF THE EC MARKET TO PRODUCERS FROM OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES BENEFITING FROM CONCESSIONAL TARIFFS; THE EC HAS BEEN LEFT WITHOUT MEANS OF REACTING TO MARKET DISTURBANCES. GREEK, SPANISH, AND PORTUGUESE ACCESSION WOULD GREATLY INCREASE THESE PROBLEMS AND WOULD WORK TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REGIONS OF THE CURRENT COMMUNITY.

3. TATTINGER RECALLED THAT THE COUNCIL HAD REQUESTED OF THE COMMISSION IN JULY 1976 A REPORT OF MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AND OFFERED TWO OBSERVATIONS: (1) TO GUARANTEE EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS, THERE WAS A NEED FOR BALANCED SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, IMPROVED PRODUCTION QUALITY, AND GUARANTEED INCOME LEVEL FOR PRODUCERS; AND (2) REFORM OF EC REGULATIONS ON WINE, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AND TOBACCO IS ALREADY NECESSARY IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT MARKET SITUATION AND WILL BE INDISPENSIBLE IN AN ENLARGEMENT CONTEXT. IN ANNOUNCING THE LIFTING OF THE FRENCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESERVE, TATTINGER EMPHASIZED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT EXPECTS RAPID ACTION ON IMPROVED REGULATION OF MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS AND THAT, WHEN THE TIME COMES TO DEFINE SPECIFIC NEGOTIATING MANDATES AND INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES, THE GOF WILL FIRMLY DEFEND THE INTERESTS HE HAD OUTLINED.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO TATTINGER'S REMARKS, EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS ANNOUNCED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD SUPPLEMENT ITS STUDY OF MEDITERRANEAN POLICY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WITH A STUDY, TO BE COMPLETED THIS FALL, OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF MEDITERRANEAN POLICY FOR THE REGIONAL, SOCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS AS WELL.

5. ON OTHER BUSINESS, THE COUNCIL TOOK NOTE OF THE COMMISSION'S HOPE THAT CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN, MALTA, AND CYPRUS CAN BE CONCLUDED BEFORE THE END OF JUNE. MORRIS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770629/aaaaayyo.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History: Hold (001 Tobacco) added on 4/16/2009 3:39:07 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ, Hold (001 Tobacco) removed on 4/16/2009 3:45:04 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ (Litigation Hold Lifted)
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